

English Language

Language reveals God the gifted communicator and linguist

God is the source of all communication. He spoke, and the world came into being, and by His work it is sustained. (Gen 1 and Ps 33:6, 8)

God communicates to us in many ways but especially through language, written and spoken.

- 'In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways.' - **Hebrews 1:1-2**

God spoke to us through His Son.

- 'In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.' - **John 1:4**

He also ensured that the progressive revelation of Himself was recorded in the Old and New Testaments.

In the Scriptures we encounter the heart and character of God expressed through facts, story, reporting, poetry, allegory, letter-writing, dreams, visions, apologetics and apocalyptic. There is such a wealth of style and language yet it all points to Jesus and speaks of Him. (**Luke 24:27**)

'All scripture is God-breathed.' **2 Timothy 3:16**

God desires for us to use language accurately and truthfully for communication and relationships. Therefore grammar, punctuation and spelling are all important as well as oral communication.

Whilst our aims must be for our pupils to learn skills of written and oral language, our higher aim must be that our pupils speak out of the integrity of who they are as people. The power of Jesus' communication was that He was what He said, His words and actions matched. His words had authority and power because He embodied truth. The Bible tells us that we all speak out of the overflow of what is in our hearts (**Matthew 12:34**). Our communication is powerful when our words and our lifestyles match.

It is important to give this vision to pupils, showing them purpose, as language work is detailed and can weary pupils if taught the wrong way. We want pupils to experience the joy of expressing themselves and using language to build relationships.

The Skill of Communication

God communicates with us in three main ways: -

1. The tongue - the spoken word
2. The pen - the written word
3. The heart - the incarnated word

The Tongue

'In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways.' **Hebrews 1:1-2**

The Pen

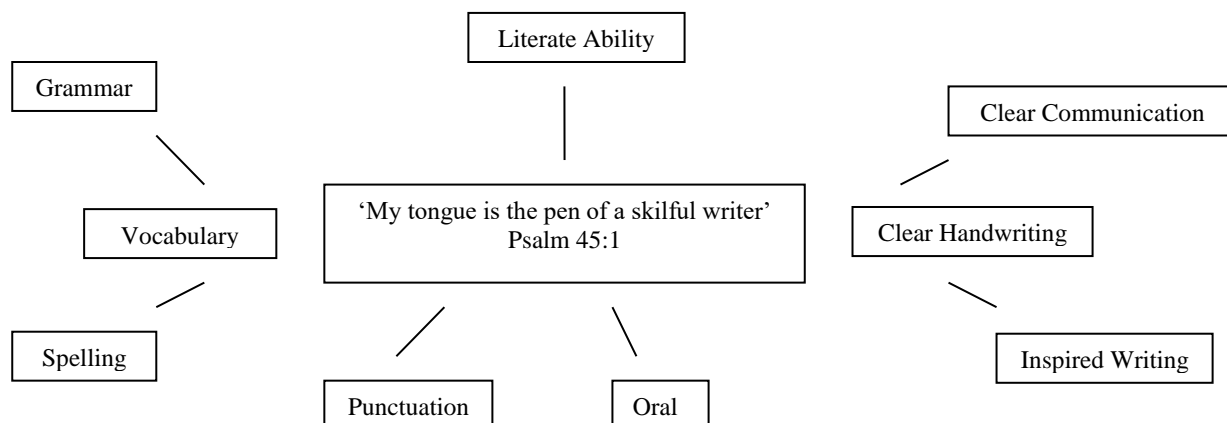
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The Heart

'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.' **Matthew 12:34**

'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.' **John 1:14**

Whilst remembering our higher aim stated earlier we also want our pupils to learn skills of oral and written language, as depicted below.



Language is made up of words: -

- a. Comprehension - recorded words
- b. Grammar - working words
- c. Spelling - spelling words
- d. Writing - creative and factual words
- e. Oral/drama - spoken words
- f. Literature/poetry - enjoying words

Resources

Refer to "Towards a Christian Curriculum" by Barbara Lord
Foundations for Life – English Curriculum (Reception to Year 6) by The King's School, Witney